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American Tour a Spectacular Triumph for Britain's Rulers



Royal Couple's Charm Captivates Millions

By Edward T. Folliard.

King George VI and Queen Elizabeth, a hard-working royal couple, are at Hyde Park today, enjoying a rest and making more page-one news by eating hot dogs. This sojourn on Squire Roosevelt's ancestral acres will ring down the curtain on their American visit, for tonight they start out for Halifax and Blighty.

The royal tour, seemingly jinxed at the beginning, has turned out to be the most smashing triumph of its kind in the 900-year history of what is now the British Empire. How successful it has been may be judged by the reaction of the German newspapers. On the one hand they sneer; they always do when something bothers them. On the other, as in the case of Goebbels' paper, they publish articles lauding the superiority of the National Socialist political idea over that of the "senile" Western democracies, a defense tactic just as significant as the sneers.

Maybe it was only an illusion—or, in any event, a happy coincidence—but the war clouds that hovered over Europe as the King and Queen were preparing to sail early in May seemed to drift away as the British sovereigns came through the fog and icebergs that delayed them two days, and started across Canada, attended by blue skies and mounting enthusiasm.

King George and Queen Elizabeth gave millions a new conception of the British Crown as they travelled, always smiling, always seemingly at ease, across the greatest of their dominions and then down to the Capital of the Empire's lost colonies. In the final summing up, this will be far more important than the tabulation of the crowds, of the money spent, the flags bought.

After all, it ought not be surprising that crowds should turn out to see this royal couple. Consider the exalted position of this 44-year-old King-Emperor, head of the greatest empire the world has ever known.

Of the two billion people in the world, 500,000,000 live under the British flag. There are 360,000,000 Indians, 70,000,000 whites, 40,000,000 blacks, 6,000,000 Arabs, 6,000,000 Malays, 1,000,000 Chinese, 1,000,000 Polynesians, 100,000 North American Indians, 30,000 Eskimos and 60,000 Australian aborigines.

Then there is the King's ancestry, an ancestry that goes back to William the Conqueror and beyond it—back through names that are familiar to every schoolboy who has advanced as far as the eighth grade.

Crown More Secure Than Ever

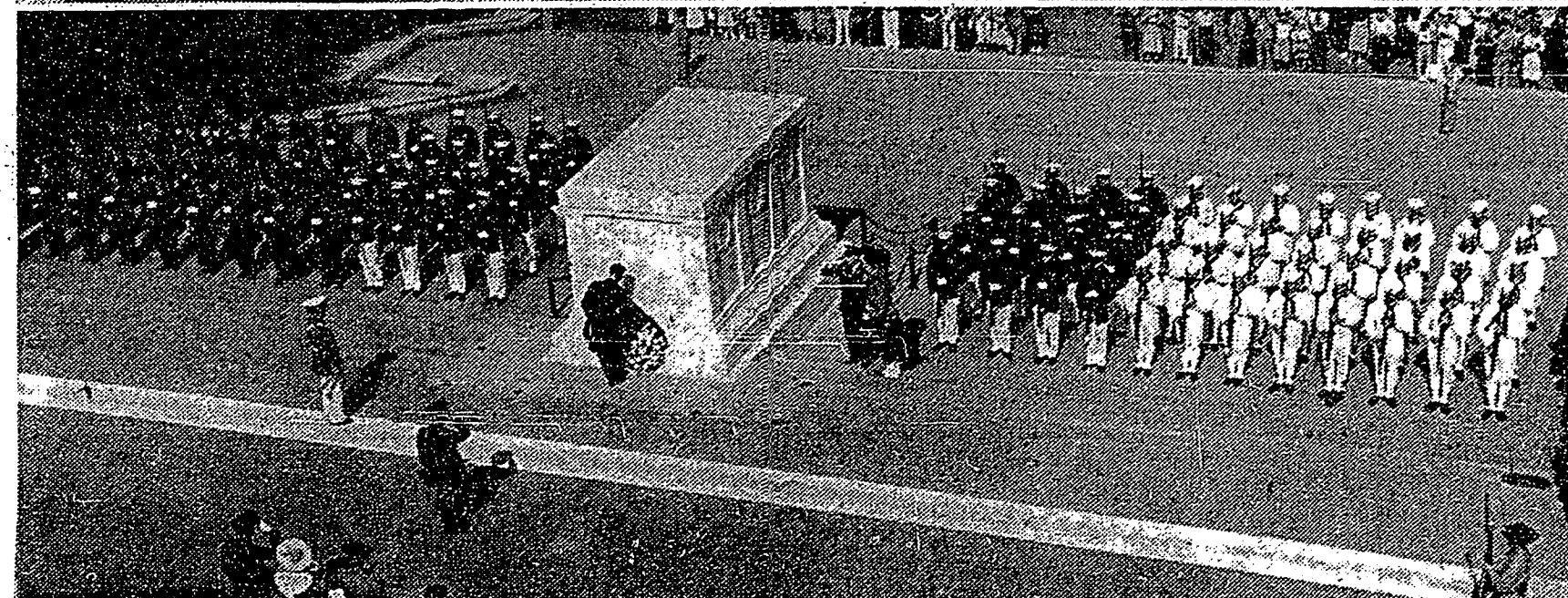
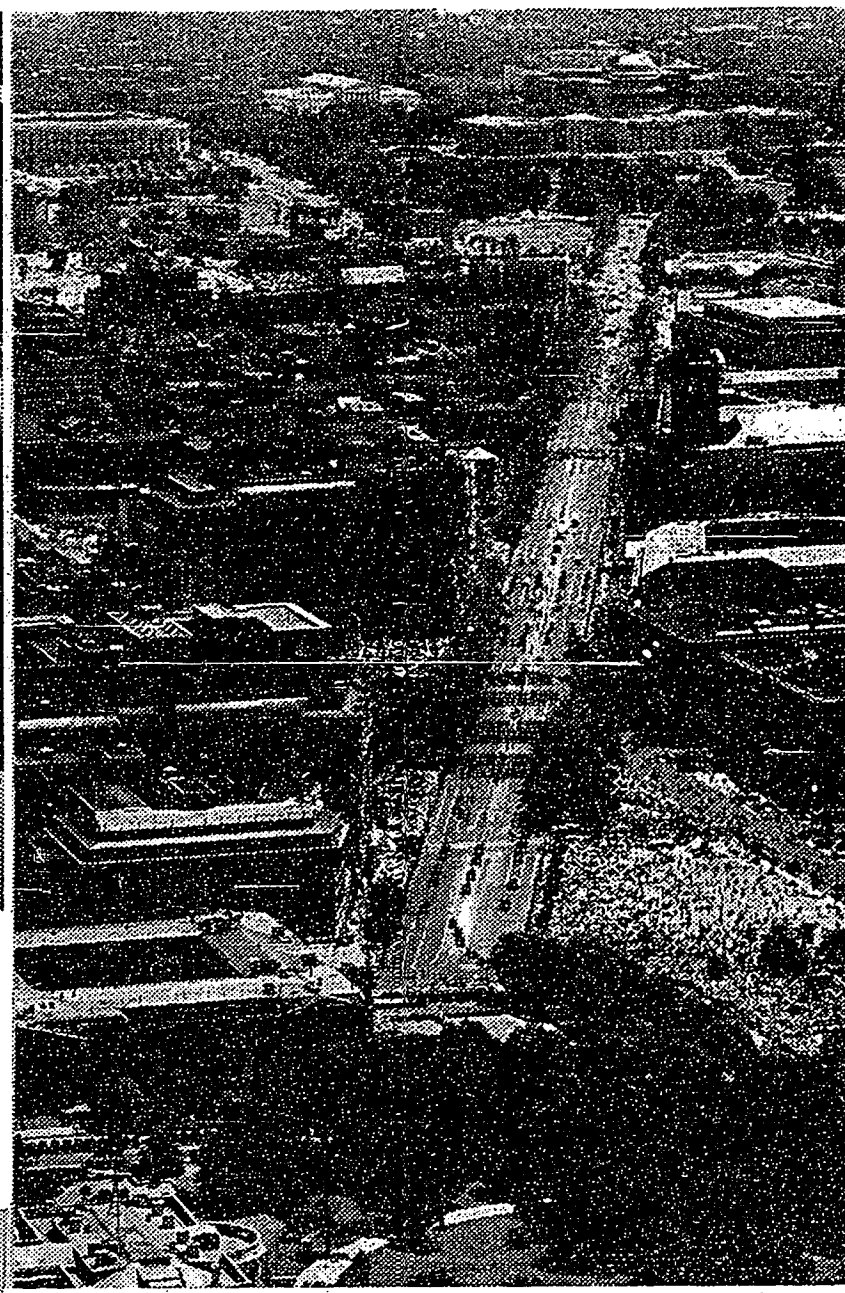
Besides this, there was the circumstance—one to marvel at from this distance—that while crowns have toppled all over Europe since the World War, the crown that rests on George's head seems more intact than ever, and the further circumstance that he and his lovely consort were the first British sovereigns ever to visit the New World. And so the crowds turned out, millions in Canada, more millions in the United States.

Never did two individuals so well live up to what was expected of them as did George and Elizabeth. It wasn't altogether so in Canada, but admittedly the crowds that turned out here in Washington were moved by curiosity. Well, how did they feel about the British sovereigns afterwards?

The answer is that Washington, and the horde of visitors that poured in here for the day, thought they were two very grand persons. Apparently this affection communicated itself to the King and Queen, for never did they seem so loath to leave a place as they did Washington—and this notwithstanding the ferocious heat.

A Washington Post copy boy, who saw the royal couple waving to

Thousands of Washingtonians cheer Britain's King George VI as he rides with President Roosevelt up historic Pennsylvania Avenue from the Capitol to the White House.



Photos by Post Staff, Associated Press, U. S. Army, Harris and Ewing and Underwood & Underwood.
Britain's monarch places a wreath on the tomb of America's Unknown Soldier, as Queen Elizabeth and the Roosevelts look on.



King and Queen Win Acclaim of Capital

Queen Elizabeth's charm and beauty won the hearts of all who saw her. She rides in the welcoming parade with Mrs. Roosevelt, above; with the King, she greets the Nation's legislators, left; receives official, diplomatic and society leaders at the British Embassy garden party, below; chats with admiring British war veterans, below, center.

the crowds as their palace-on-wheels rolled out of Union Station the other night, will never forget the scene. As they moved away in the gloom, the Queen's tiara sparkling, he turned to a reporter and sighed:

"It was just like a fadeout in a movie, wasn't it?" Perhaps a colored taxi driver explained Washington's reaction to Their Majesties' visit as well as anybody could. He was driving former Representative Maury Maverick, of Texas, down Connecticut avenue and got to talking about the King and Queen.

"I saw 'em twice," he said. "It sure is a fine thing to see a man who is a big shot going out with his wife and not strutting around in a uniform like Hitler and Mussolini."

Up in Canada, the newspaper writers raved so much about the Queen that occasionally they became conscience-stricken and came through with an afterthought paragraph to say that the King was quite an individual, too. Of course, it wasn't necessary. The King would agree with all that they had said about the Queen, and add a few bouquets they had never thought about. He is a man very much in love with his wife.

Queen Fills Role to Perfection

Sholto Watt, a London newspaperman who traveled on the royal pilot train, had something illuminating to say up in Canada about the idea that the Queen was "stealing the show."

"There could not be a greater misconception," he said. "The Queen fills her role to perfection. She is graceful and charming to everyone, and she can permit herself many spontaneous departures from the strict program—at Brandon she was 50 feet away from police and attendants, in the middle of a cheering mob of children—but the King is in a slightly different position."

"It is not to be expected of him that he should discard for long the gravity that befits the head of this great empire. It is, indeed, his serious demeanor that has the most endeared him to Canadians; they feel that he is a responsible and stable character; they can be confident that his duty will always be performed to the last jot."

"And it is right that the King should be slightly aloof; the King is the incarnation of a tremendous tradition and of a tremendous actuality—an empire of nearly 500,000,000 people. Kingship is a sacred office; its holder cannot forget that he is to a certain extent a person set apart."

If this sounds sort of awesome in American ears, it should be added—as Mr. Watt did add—that the King is far from being stolid. His smile is sudden and unexpected; it lights up his whole face, and one who has met him and shaken his hand feels that he could go up to him years afterward and say, "You remember me—we met in Ottawa."

Having seen the British sovereigns going through their time-table existence, Washingtonians must now have a new respect for the downright hard work involved in their job.

There is an existence of changing clothes and uniforms four, five and six times a day, of meeting bores as well as people they like, of smiling and being gracious, and then, at the end of the day, dead tired, going to bed to get ready for another round of it the next day.

Fortunately, King George and Queen Elizabeth are blessed with a genuine friendliness, a keen desire to meet and talk to people. Wherever Their Majesties went in Canada, the poets got busy, turning out whole newspaper pages of ecstatic lyrics about the young King-Emperor and his gracious Queen. The fervor didn't quite reach that stage in Washington, but one thing is certain: The people here will always remember their graciousness and charm and treasure the kaleidoscopic picture that they left behind—the Queen riding up Pennsylvania avenue waving from beneath her parasol; the King bravely sweltering in the uniform of an Admiral of the Fleet; Great Britain's sovereign bowing reverently before the tombs of George Washington and the Unknown Soldier, and—as the copy boy said—that last memorable fadeout at Union Station.



Queen Elizabeth's photographs do not do justice to her radiant loveliness, all who have seen her agree. This picture of her talking to a Girl Scout is "the best photograph of the Queen I have ever seen," says a reporter who covered the entire royal tour.



Washington liked King George for his naturalness and democratic ways. Above, he enjoys a joke with Mr. Roosevelt as they sail to Mount Vernon on the Presidential yacht. At Mount Vernon he placed a wreath on the tomb of George Washington.